

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAKAR 02877 01 OF 04 181108Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 SSM-03 TRSE-00 EB-08
COME-00 AID-05 AGR-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 /122 W
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R 180840Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3729
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN POUCH
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AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH
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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT POUCH
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AMEMBASSY PRAIA POUCH
AMEMBASSY RABAT POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 DAKAR 2877

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EGEN, SHUM, PINT, PGOV, SG
SUBJECT: SENEGAL: QUARTERLY ROUNDUP--JANUARY-MARCH 1978

1. SUMMARY: SENEGAL'S RECENT NATIONAL ELECTIONS HELPED
REVITALIZE THE GOVERNMENT PARTY, INTRODUCED OPPOSITION VOICES
INTO THE LEGISLATURE, INFLUENCED THE COMPOSITION OF A NEW
TECHNOCRATIC CABINET, AND EARNED INTERNATIONAL ENCOMIUMS
AS THE LATEST STEP IN A PROMISING AFRICAN EXPERIMENT IN
MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY. SENEGAL ASSUMED CHAIRMANSHIP OF
THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WHERE IT COLLABORATED
CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. SENEGAL'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WAS
DARKENED BY THE IMPACT OF THE CATASTROPHIC 1977 CROP YEAR,
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 02877 01 OF 04 181108Z

WHICH HALVED PRODUCTION OF PEANUTS, THE BIGGEST FOREIGN
EXCHANGE EARNER AND THE MAINSTAY OF THE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL
ESTABLISHMENT. HOWEVER, PHOSPHATE EXPORTS REMAINED STEADY,
THE BOOM IN TOURISM CONTINUED, AND THERE WERE PROSPECTS
FOR INCREASED ARAB SUPPORT FOR WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AND FOR IRANIAN INVESTMENT IN PHOSPHATE MINING. ALTHOUGH
SENEGAL REMAINS CONCERNED OVER ALGERIAN "IMPERIALISM,"

THE RECENT RAPPROACHMENT WITH SEKOU TOURE HAS LESSENED IMMEDIATE SECURITY CONCERNS, AS EVIDENCED BY THE GOS AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY A CONTINGENT TO UNIFIL. AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN SENEGAL ACCELERATED DURING EARLY 1978 WITH THE FAA'S ELABORATE TRSB DEMONSTRATION AND VISITS BY A TOTAL OF FIVE U.S. NAVY SHIPS, SEVERAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. NATIONAL EMERGENCY AIRBORNE COMMAND POST DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S AFRICAN TRIP, THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE, AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG, SEVERAL CODELS AND NUMEROUS OTHER PERSONALITIES. THESE HIGHLY VISIBLE ACTIVITIES WERE PARALLELED BY A RAPIDLY EXPANDING U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORT AND ACTIVE PEACE CORPS, CULTURAL, DEFENSE AND LABOR PROGRAMS. THE SENEGALESE HAD MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA, AND WOULD FAVOR EXPANDED AMERICAN SUPPORT TO MOROCCO IN THE WESTERN SAHARA. BUT THE CONSULTATIONS ENTAILED BY RECENT U.S. ACTIVITIES IN DAKAR UNDERSCORED THE SUBSTANTIAL CONGRUITY IN U.S. AND SENEGALESE VIEWS ON MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS AND PROVIDED NEW DEMONSTRATIONS OF SENEGAL'S DISPOSITION TOWARD CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARIZED BELOW HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN EMBASSY REPORTING AS THE EVENTS OCCURRED, BUT WE HAVE OMITTED CABLE REFERENCES IN THE INTERESTS OF BREVITY AND READABILITY. END SUMMARY. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 02877 01 OF 04 181108Z

2. ELECTIONS/HUMAN RIGHTS: THE SENEGALESE SCENE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978 REVOLVED AROUND THE FEBRUARY LOCAL, LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, WHICH REPRESENTED THE FIRST NATIONWIDE TEST OF THE MULTIPARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN TAKING SHAPE DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, UNDER PRESSURE TO RE-ESTABLISH BASES OF POPULAR SUPPORT IN THEIR HOME CONSTITUENCIES, WERE VERY MUCH PREOCCUPIED WITH PARTISAN ACTIVITIES FOR WEEKS PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS. DESPITE A MODEST TURNOUT AND GROUNDING BY OPPOSITION LEADERS OVER IRREGULARITIES IN OPERATION OF SOME POLLING PLACES, THE ELECTIONS TOOK PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM, AND STIMULATED MORE LIVELY PUBLIC INTEREST THAN OBSERVERS HAD EXPECTED ONLY A FEW MONTHS EARLIER. PRESIDENT SENGHOR WON AN IMPRESSIVE 82 PERCENT MANDATE FOR A NEW TERM AND THE CONTEST HELPED REVITALIZE AND DEMOCRATIZE THE GOVERNING PARTI SOCIALISTE, WHILE ENABLING 18 VICTORIOUS OPPOSITION DEPUTIES TO TAKE THEIR PLACES IN THE NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH CONVENED APRIL 1 (NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR PREVIOUS THREAT TO BOYCOTT THE ASSEMBLY).

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02877 02 OF 04 181129Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 DAKAR 2877

THE NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED MARCH 15 EXCLUDED SEVERAL
MINISTERS WHO HAD LOST POPULAR SUPPORT AND REINFORCED
THE TECHNOCRATIC CHARACTER OF SENEGALESE ADMINISTRATION,
THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE HAND OF PRIME MINISTER ABDOU
DIOUF AND PROMPTING A SPATE OF ARTICLES IN THE INTER-
NATIONAL PRESS SALUTING DIOUF AND REINFORCING HIS
IMPLICIT CLAIM TO DAUPHIN STATUS. THE MINISTERIAL
RESHUFFLE CHANGED MANY OF THE KEY FIGURES WITH WHICH
THIS MISSION MUST WORK IN CARRYING OUT U.S. PROGRAMS,
BUT PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR AT LEAST EQUALLY CLOSE
COOPERATION WITH MOST SUCCESSOR MINISTERS. SENEGAL'S
EFFORTS TO FOSTER MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY ARE
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 02877 02 OF 04 181129Z

WINNING INCREASING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION, WITH FREEDOM HOUSE CITING SENEGAL IN JANUARY AMONG FIVE NATIONS AROUND WORLD WHERE "SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT" HAD TAKEN PLACE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE OUTLOOK FOR (HIS) FUTURE WAS BRIGHT. SUMMING UP THE JUST-CONCLUDED ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, JEUNE AFRIQUE REMARKED THAT "SENEGAL GIVES THE WORLD AN EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRATIC GOOD SENSE: TO LIVE LIBERTY RATHER THAN DREAMING (ABOUT) IT." AT THE SAME TIME, U.S. COLLABORATION WITH SENEGAL IN THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD WAS STRENGTHENED WITH SENEGALESE CHIEF JUSTICE KEBA MBAYE'S ASSUMPTION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT ITS 34TH SESSION IN GENEVA. MBAYE DEMONSTRATED DEFT LEADERSHIP AT A SUCCESSFUL SESSION WHICH TOOK PRECEDENT-SETTING ACTION TO INVESTIGATE UGANDA AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA. SENEGALESE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE JANUARY ELECTION OF PROCURER GENERAL OUSMANE GOUNDIAM TO THE UN COMMITTEE FOR ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND IN THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY GOUNDIAM AND OTHER SENEGALESE OFFICIALS (DURING A JANUARY VISIT BY AMSPEC WARREN WEINSTEIN) IN ATTENDING A MAY COLLOQUIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS BEING ORGANIZED IN KIGALI. IN THE QUARTER JUST ENDED SENEGAL ALSO RATIFIED UN CONVENANTS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS: THE CONTINUING FAVORABLE EVOLUTION OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SYSTEM WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO SENEGAL'S WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE MOST PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATES OF THE IMPACT OF THE 1977 DROUGHT ON SENEGAL'S PEANUT HARVEST PROVED ALL TOO ACCURATE. TOTAL PRODUCTION WILL BE LESS THAN

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 02877 02 OF 04 181129Z

600,000 TONS, OR ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S CROP. IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE APRIL 12 JEUNE AFRIQUE, PRIME MINISTER DIOUF ADMITTED IN THE MOST CANDID LANGUAGE YET THAT 1977 HAD BEEN "CATASTROPHIC," AND "THE MOST TERRIBLE" OF ALL THE DROUGHT YEARS EXPERIENCED IN THIS DECADE. ONLY APPROXIMATELY 300,000 TONS OF PEANUTS WILL BE CRUSHED AND REFINED, THOUGH LOCAL PROCESSING CAPACITY IS ABOUT 875,000 TONS ANNUALLY, AND PEANUT OIL EXPORTS WILL BE AT THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE INDEPENDENCE. UNDERSCORING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, THE GOS IS TENTATIVELY SEEKING 50,000 TONS OF US PEANUTS, ESSENTIALLY TO KEEP LOCAL REFINERIES OPERATING. SINCE PEANUT PRODUCTS ARE TRADITIONALLY SENEGAL'S NUMBER ONE EXPORT, IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BALANCE

OF PAYMENTS ARE OMINOUS.

STAPLE FOOD CROPS WERE ALSO SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT WITH PRODUCTION OFF FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR BY OVER 20 PERCENT FOR MILLET AND SORGHUM AND 50 PERCENT FOR RICE. FOOD GRAIN IMPORTS WILL BALLOON TO ABOUT 500,000 TONS IN 1978, ABOUT 180,000 TONS OVER THE ANNUAL AVERAGE.

THE CURRENT AGRICULTURAL SITUATION HAS FORCED THE GOS TO REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS TO HARNESS ITS WATER RESOURCES TO ESCAPE THE DROUGHT CYCLE. IN A MAJOR PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 7 (FULL TEXT POUCHED AF/W), PRESIDENT SENGHOR REITERATED SENEGAL'S COMMITMENT TO CONSTRUCT, OVER A 40-YEAR PERIOD, TWELVE DAMS ON INLAND WATERWAYS, WITH CAPACITY FOR IRRIGATING 500,000 HECTARES OF LAND. THE KEYSTONE WILL BE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SENGAL RIVER BASIN THROUGH THE OMVS (THE TRI-STATE SENEGAL RIVER DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION). THE THREE OMVS PRESIDENTS FLEW TO SAUDI ARABIA AND ABU DHABI IN MARCH TO SEEK MORE FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT, AND PRESIDENT SENGHOR STATED ON APRIL 7 THAT 80 PERCENT OF FINANCING

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PAGE 04 DAKAR 02877 02 OF 04 181129Z

FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF OMVS WAS IN HAND. SIMILAR FUNDRAISING TRIPS ARE PROPOSED FOR EUROPE AND THE U.S. INVITATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL BIDS FOR THE \$120 MILLION DIAMA DAM RECENTLY WENT OUT AS PART OF THIS PROJECT. IN ADDITION, OVER ONE-HALF OF THE ENTIRE \$60 MILLION "JUMBO" LOAN SIGNED BY THE GOS MARCH 16 AND MANAGED BY CITIBANK IS DESTINED FOR AGRICULTURAL/IRRIGATION PROJECTS, PRIMARILY IN RICE FARMING.

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02877 03 OF 04 181153Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 DAKAR 2877

PHOSPHATE EXPORTS CONTINUED AT A STEADY PACE, ABOUT 1.5 MILLION TONS PER YEAR BUT PRICES REMAIN FAR BELOW THEIR 1974 PEAK. TOURISM PROVED TO BE THE BRIGHTEST SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY, AND TOOK OVER AS THE THIRD LARGEST FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNER, BRINGING IN SOME \$38 MILLION IN 1977. NONETHELESS, THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OUTLOOK IS BLEAK AND SENEGAL, ALREADY DECLARED ELIGIBLE IN 1977 FOR A \$7.7 MILLION IMF TRUST FUND DRAWING, WILL HAVE TO RELY HEAVILY ON FOREIGN AID TO FINANCE THE GAP, AND MAY AGAIN NEED IMF RELIEF.

TWO MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE PERIOD WERE THE OPENING
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 02877 03 OF 04 181153Z

OF AN IBRD BRANCH IN DAKAR, BECOMING THE THIRD WORLD BANK OFFICE IN AFRICA, AND THE COMMITMENT BY IRAN TO PURCHASE OVER \$12 MILLION INTEREST IN THE TAIBA PHOSPHATE OPERATION.

4. FOREIGN AFFAIRS: THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER IN SENEGAL'S FOREIGN RELATIONS WAS THE UNEXPECTED RAPPROCHMENT WITH GUINEA'S MERCURIAL SEKOU TOURE ACHIEVED AT THE MARCH 18-19 MONROVIA SUMMIT. THOUGH WARY OF YET ANOTHER GUINEAN ABOUT-FACE, THE SENEGALESE ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE POTENTIAL DIVIDENDS WHICH GUINEAN COOPERATION COULD HOLD FOR GAMBIA RIVER DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND SENGHOR ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 7 THAT PROVISIONS WERE BEING MADE TO OPEN A SENEGALESE EMBASSY IN CONAKRY. THE LESS BELLIGERENT POSTURE ASSUMED BY THE SEKOU TOURE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A MARKED ALLEVIATION OF SENEGALESE CONCERN OVER SECURITY OF ITS SOUTHERN

BORDERS, WHICH REACHED A HIGH POINT TWO YEARS AGO WITH THE RECALL OF SENEGAL'S BATTALION FROM THE UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN THE SINAI. THE IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE IN THE REGION IS EVIDENT IN SENEGAL'S CURRENT PREPARATIONS TO DISPATCH A 600-MAN UNIT TO JOIN THE UN INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON, WHICH WILL BE TRANSPORTED BY THE USAF. PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THIS YEAR'S APRIL 4 NATIONAL DAY SOFT-PEDDLED NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES BY CONTRAST WITH HIS OTHER ANNUAL MESSAGES IN RECENT YEARS. HOWEVER, IN EARLY 1978 PRESIDENT SENGHOR MOVED INTO HIGH GEAR IN HIS DIPLOMATIC AND PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE DESIGNED TO PROVE THAT ALGERIA SEEKS GEOPOLITICAL CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE SAHARAN REGION FROM THE MAURITANIAN COAST TO CHAD, WITH A COROLLARY GOAL OF ARAB DOMINATION OVER THE RESIDENT AFRICAN ETHNIC GROUPS. THE SUBSEQUENT DISPATCH OF ALGERIAN FORMER
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PAGE 03 DAKAR 02877 03 OF 04 181153Z

MINISTER AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VICE PRESIDENT ZAIBEK TO DAKAR FLATTERED THE SENEGALESE BUT DID NOT DIMINISH SENGHOR'S APPREHENSIONS OVER ALGERIAN ADVENTURISM.

5. U.S. POLICIES/PROGRAMS: THE OPENING MONTHS OF 1978 WITNESSED A REMARKABLE SURGE OF HIGHLY VISIBLE AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN DAKAR. THEY INCLUDED THE FEBRUARY 4-7 OFFICIAL VISIT BY A U.S. NAVY CARRIER, DESTROYER AND FRIGATE WHICH FEATURED AN IMPRESSIVE HELICOPTER ASSAULT DEMONSTRATION STAGED BY U.S. MARINES NEAR THE OUTSKIRTS OF DAKAR. THE FAA TEMPORARILY EQUIPPED DAKAR'S YOFF AIRPORT WITH SOPHISTICATED GROUND INSTALLATIONS FOR THE U.S.- DEVELOPED TIME REFERENCE SCANNING BEAM MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM AND EMPLOYED A SPECIALLY EQUIPPED BOEING 727 AIRCRAFT TO STAGE DEMONSTRATION FLIGHTS FEBRUARY 14-15 FOR OVER 100 REPRESENTATIVES FROM MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING OFFICIALS OF THE AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION AND ASECNA (AGENCE POUR LA SECURITE DE LA NAVIGATION AERIENNE EN AFRIQUE ET MADAGASCAR), BOTH OF WHICH ARE HEADQUARTERED IN DAKAR. IN LATE MARCH AND EARLY APRIL, IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S AFRICAN VISIT, DAKAR PROVIDED EXTENSIVE SUPPORT FACILITIES FOR THE BOEING 747 HOUSING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY AIRBORNE COMMAND POST AND ITS SUPPORTING AIRCRAFT, WHILE WELCOMING TWO U.S. NAVY VESSELS STATIONED IN THE AREA. THIS PERIOD ALSO SAW VISITS BY CONGRESSMAN CHARLES WHALEN, SENATOR JACOB JAVITS, A NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE DELEGATION, DR. RUTH SCHACHTER MORGENTHAU OF USUN, AND AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG, WHOSE PRESENCE PROVIDED SENEGAL'S LEADERS WITH THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT CABINET-LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. PRESIDENT SENGHOR SAW THE

YOUNG VISIT PRIMARILY AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS HIS
CONCERN OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICA
AND OVER ALGERIA'S ROLE AS A SOVIET PROXY SEEKING TO
DESTABILIZE WEST AFRICA. (AND IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE
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PAGE 04 DAKAR 02877 03 OF 04 181153Z

HELD LATER THE SAME DAY, SENGHOR REITERATED HIS REFUSAL
TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LUANDA "AS LONG
AS THE CUBANS BEHAVE AS AN ARMY OF OCCUPATION IN
ANGOLA").

THE SENEGALESE CRITICIZED THE
U.S. DECISION NOT TO SELL EQUIPMENT TO MOROCCO FOR USE
IN THE WESTERN SAHARA AND ACCUSED SOME AMERICAN OFFICIALS
OF "STROKING THE SOVIETS" IN AFRICA, BUT
SENEGAL WARMLY PRAISED U.S. POLICY IN THE HORN (WHERE
THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INVIOABILITY IS SEEN AS
PREEMINENT), SUPPORTED WESTERN INITIATIVES IN RHODESIA
AND NAMIBIA, AND ENDORSED PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO
ISRAEL WHILE WORKING TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN
THE PLO AND EGYPT ON THE ONE HAND AND SEGMENTS OF THE
ISRAELI COMMUNITY ON THE OTHER.

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02877 04 OF 04 181400Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 DAKAR 2877

THERE WAS AN UNDERCURRENT OF SOME SENEGALESE SENSITIVITY TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S AFRICAN VISIT, REFLECTING THE SENEGALESE PERCEPTION THAT NIGERIA DOES NOT SPEAK FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN AND MORE FUNDAMENTAL APPREHENSIONS OVER THE LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR WEST AFRICA OF NIGERIA'S DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE RESOURCES. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY WARNED ELLIPTICALLY AGAINST THE "AMERICAN GIANT....ALLYING ITSELF WITH AN AFRICAN POWER IN ORDER TO TRY THEN TO IMPOSE ITS POINT OF VIEW INDIRECTLY."

CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN SENEGAL AND THE UNITED STATES ARE FLOURISHING UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE "ROOTS" PHENOMENON,
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 02877 04 OF 04 181400Z

AND TWO WEEK-LONG SHOWINGS OF THE "ROOTS" TELEVISION SERIES ORGANIZED BY THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER DREW CAPACITY AUDIENCES. THE CENTER FOLLOWED UP IN MARCH WITH A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, MONTH-LONG COMMEMORATION OF AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY FEATURING LECTURES, EXHIBITS, BROADCASTS, FILMS, READINGS AND NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENTS.

THE SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION TAKING PLACE IN AID ACTIVITIES IN SENEGAL WAS REFLECTED IN STEPPED-UP ACTIVITY IN BOTH RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS DURING EARLY 1978. AID REQUESTED AND RECEIVED A \$500,000 GRANT FOR DISASTER RELIEF PURPOSES AND OBTAINED APPROVAL FOR 25,000 M.T. OF SORGHUM FOR DONATION TO SENEGAL'S DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM. PROAGS WERE PREPARED AND SIGNED IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$700,000 FOR RURAL HEALTH AND \$500,000 FOR A SMALL IRRIGATED PERIMETERS PROJECT. NEW PROAGS WERE ALSO SIGNED FOR THE SAHEL FOOD CROP PROTECTION PROJECT WITH SENEGAL, GAMBIA, MAURITANIA, CAPE VERDE, CAMEROON AND CHAD, AND IT IS NOW EXPECTED THAT THE REGIONAL PROTECTION TRAINING CENTER IN DAKAR WILL BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1.

CIVIL ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT OBTAINED FROM THE U.S. BY SENEGAL UNDER AN \$8 MILLION FMS LOAN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN LATE 1977 BEGAN TO ARRIVE DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 1978, ALTHOUGH DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAXITY

CAUSED BY PREOCCUPATION WITH THE ELECTIONS, SENEGAL WAS SEVERAL WEEKS LATE IN MAKING ITS FIRST INTEREST PAYMENT ON THE LOAN WHICH CAME DUE IN MARCH.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATION OF THE MISSION WAS THE DECLINE IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAKAR 02877 04 OF 04 181400Z

EXCHANGE RATES FROM 240 FRANCS CFA PER DOLLAR TO 228. THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO A FIVE PERCENT BUDGET REDUCTION, AND CONTINUATION AT THIS LEVEL WILL NECESSITATE A REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE BUREAU.

THE SEVERE LIMITS ON VISA ISSUANCE IMPOSED BY THE SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT ON OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS FROM NEIGHBORING POSTS PERSISTED IN EARLY 1978, LEADING THE AMBASSADOR TO SEEK INTERVENTION BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR, WHO HAS PROMISED TO REVIEW THE SITUATION.

THERE WERE NO OTHER SERIOUS CONSULAR PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH THE IMMIGRANT VISA WORKLOAD MULTIPLIED BY ALMOST SIX TIMES OVER THE COMPARABLE PERIOD A YEAR AGO.

BY THE END OF THE FIRST CALENDAR QUARTER, DAKAR HAD OBLIGATED \$50,000 IN SELF-HELP FUNDS OR TWO-THIRDS OF THE INITIAL FISCAL YEAR ALLOTMENT. PROJECTS ASSISTED HAVE A WIDE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION IN SENEGAL, WITH WELLS, GARDENS AND LATRINE CONSTRUCTION BEING AMONG THE MOST COMMON UNDERTAKINGS.

IN EARLY 1978 THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM CONSISTED OF 95 VOLUNTEERS, AMONG WHOM 39 WERE ENGLISH TEACHERS, WHILE ANOTHER 34 WERE ENGAGED IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. A NEW TRAINING PROGRAM FOR 27 TRAINEES BEGAN IN LATE MARCH.

THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF SENEGALESE WORKERS (CNTS) IN LATE 1977 PRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPANDED AMERICAN CONTACTS WITH NEW, OUTWARD LOOKING LABOR LEADERS. AALC, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH AFRICAN LABOR DEVELOPMENT MET WITH SENEGALESE LABOR LEADERS DURING THE AALC'S REGIONAL STAFF MEETING IN DAKAR IN MARCH AND THE CNTS' CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DAKAR 02877 04 OF 04 181400Z

NEW PRESIDENT, BABACAR DIAGNE, LUNCHEd WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING A CABINET PORTFOLIO IN THE NEW SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT AND DISPATCHED CNTS CONFEDERAL SECRETARY GENERAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY BASSIROU GUEYE, ONE OF SENEGAL'S MOST DISTINGUISHED LABOR LEADERS, TO THE U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN A MONTH LONG OLAB COURSE IN HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DURING APRIL. THE AALC HOPES TO FOLLOW UP WITH A SUBSEQUENT TRAVEL GRANT FOR DIAGNE HIMSELF.

OVERALL, THE PACE, BREADTH, AND DIVERSITY OF AMERICAN PROGRAMS IN SENEGAL DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978 WERE AT UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS, WHICH PROVIDED THE SENEGALESE WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR DISPOSITION TOWARD CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE CONSUTATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE ACTIVITIES UNDERSCORED THE SUBSTANTIAL CONGRUENCE WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND SENEGALESE VIEWS ON A WIDE RANGE OF MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.
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Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: QUARTERLY REPORTS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAKAR02877
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780165-0982
Format: TEL
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780446/aaaabmzf.tel
Line Count: 568
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 299d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2937210
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENEGAL: QUARTERLY ROUNDUP--JANUARY-MARCH 1978
TAGS: PEPR, EGEN, SHUM, PINT, PGOV, SG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/299d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014